श्री सभापति : यह आप की खुशकिस्मती है कि आप की पार्टी में जैन साहब शामिल हैं ।

श्री एन० के० पी० साल्वे : हमारे इम्पलाईज का पूरा पूरा ख्याल रखा जाता है । स्टील प्लान्टस में हम लोग जो तनख्वाह देते हैं वह काफी पर्याप्त है । लगभग 2100 रु,पया ढ्हर किसी पर खर्च किये जाते हैं और उन के वेलफेयर का भी पूरा ख्याल रखा जाता है।

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Since the Minister has admitted that most of the existing plants are already outdated and it is a miracle that they are running, I would ask him to tell us why he is not taking up the Vijayanagaram steel plant which can be started with modern technology. It has been committed to us long long ago. It can be started with modern technology.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: We cannot afford to scrap either Durgapur or Rourkela or IISCO steel plants. We have got to modernise them. Vijayanagram is an entirely different issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rajasthan Atomic Power Station

*164. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station near Kota has stopped generating power;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the matter; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the inquiry?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No Sir, Unit-II of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station is functioning satisfactorily. In recent months the capacity factor of 66.3 per cent have been achieved.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

U. S. offer to take Indian Scientist aboard Space Shuttle Challenger..

*166. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the United States has offered to take an Indian scientist aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986;

(b) if so, what are details in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are in the process of formulating a formal policy which will permit major cost reimbursible Space Transportation System (STS) payload customers to select and utilise their own payload specialists onboard STS flights. The draft NASA policy has been made available to the Department of Space (DOS). While there is no formal written offer, DOS has been advised that US-NASA would welcome a Government of India proposal to fly an Indian Payload Specialist onboard the STS|INSAT-IC flight, which is currently scheduled for June, 1986.

(c) The matter is being examined from all relevant aspects including technical, contractual and financial aspects. A decision will be taken after these are completed.